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Saturday, March 2, 2013

THE MORNING NEWS

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Dow hits 5-year high despite US budget mess

NEW YORK (AFP) - The Dow Jones Industrial Average reached a new five-year high Friday as investors looked past the risks to the economy of impending federal spending cuts and bid up equities.

The Dow jumped 35.17 points (0.25 percent) to 14,089.66, less than 100 points from all-time high of 14,164.53 on October 9, 2007, ahead of the markets crash and the Great Recession.

The broad-based S&P 500 increased 3.52 (0.23 percent) to 1,518.20, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index gained 9.55 (0.30 percent) to 3,169.74.

Friday's trading came as \$85 billion in spending cuts were to begin taking effect, as Washington policy makers failed to agree on a compromise for a more moderate deficit reduction program.

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Kiwanis Club of Aruba conducting traffic safety stop-texting campaign



Ebby Schwengel, Aurora Dijkhoff and Ryan Kock



Graphic artist Paul Sneek and Photographer Dwight Jimenez

distribution of flyers at insurance companies and a musical jingle by Jonathan "Biggy" Thiel, played on the radio reminding islanders to curb this most dangerous practice.

Kiwanis Club of Aruba has been conducting safe driving campaigns for over thirty years, addressing various issues to reducing the number of traffic accidents. Texting is the latest manifestation of our technological age, and islanders have embraced it. "This is fine," comments Mr. Kock, "we understand how vital communication is these days, but when driving, all attention should be on the road."

Continued on pg 2

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Kiwanis Club members welcomed island media to inform the public that the worldwide issue attempting to text while behind the wheel of a car is "driving up" Aruba's traffic accident rates. It is Kiwanis that sponsors and places the "traffic thermometers" around the island that record fatal accidents, encouraging island motorists to be more careful on the road.

Heading the project are Kiwanis Club members Ebby Schwengel, Aurora Dijkhoff and Ryan Kock. The campaign includes the placement of warnings in local papers,



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ATA, Soul Beach Productions and Insel Air get promoted



Just recently Aruba Tourism Authority's representative, Amayra Boekhoudt, Soul Beach Productions' Mark Adkins and Karl Welch, together with representative of Insel Air, Trevor Nisbeth, travelled to Sint Maarten, Surinam and Curacao. Their travels were

to promote the mega Soul Beach Festival to take place on Aruba in the month of May. Curacao has already experienced such an event.

Soul Beach Music Festival:

This year's Soul Beach Festival is scheduled to take place from May 22 to 26 on the beach at Nikky Beach with a 5 days event to entertain "Soul Beach Followers" and our own locals. During the day there will be different "beach parties" at Moomba Beach and Baby Beach. On Friday the 24th of May they will hold the "comedy night" with the well-known "All-Star Comedy headliner" Sinbad, together with his "funky band."

On Saturday 25th, the 3 time Grammy award winner Motown Recording Artist, NE-YO with various hits often heard on Aruba. On Sunday 26th the show will close with D'Angelo presenting his collection of dance pop music and R&B. Both artists will present with their own complete band and dancers in a rather unique show.

Ticket Sales:

This year Soul Beach Productions will afford the local market the opportunity to purchase tickets at the special price of Afls.100 per person per night. Everyone is encouraged to get their tickets as early as possible to guarantee their seat at this special limited discount offer.

Tickets are available at the following locations:

Dragon CD & Electronics
San Nicolaas
Fun Miles Office - Oranjestad
Insel Air - Oranjestad
Moomba Beach - Palm Beach
Sopranos Piano Bar - Palm Beach

Nikky Beach - Oranjestad
Valero: Boulevard, Essoville, Palm Beach, Ponton and Santa Cruz

For more information regarding ticket sales and up-to-date news about Soul Beach Club, visit

<http://www.soulbeach.net>
or <http://www.aruba.com>.

You may also visit www.soulbeach.net/2013/index.php/artists for information about the line up of artists. Follow them on twitter at [Twitter@SoulBeachMusic](https://twitter.com/SoulBeachMusic) or become a fan for 2013 Soul Beach Music Festival at [www.Facebook.com/soulbeachmusic](https://www.facebook.com/soulbeachmusic).

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Contact person: Amayra Boekhoudt at Tel. 582-3777 ext. 254.

Kiwanis Club of Aruba conducting traffic safety stop-texting campaign

Continued from pg 1



The amount of motorists observed texting while driving is really alarming, especially when many countries have already passed laws against it. We hope to see such laws enacted on Aruba. We already know how disastrous this can

be."

Kiwanis of Aruba expressed the hope that island drivers take their message to heart and pay attention to safety on the road.

By Rosalie Klein

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Peter and Misia seal the deal on Aruba at Simply Fish



Peter and Misia toast

Life's memorable moments have no better backdrop than Aruba's scenic beaches and turquoise Caribbean waters, and Peter Panagakis, originally of New Hampshire, was well aware it was the perfect place to propose to the love of his life, Misia (pronounced

Masters Degree, and she was an undergraduate.

"The story of how we met is right out of a movie..." recalls Peter. "It was an unusual night for me, I was out at a club, something I didn't usually do. I was just leaning against a wall when Misia's



Mom Effie toasts the newly engaged couple

Misha) Snyder.

The couple enjoyed a vacation with family here a couple of years ago; while planning this second sojourn, Peter began laying his plans for popping the question to Misia. The couple have been together for five years, after meeting at Boston University, where he was going his

BFF Neha approached me asking me to rescue her friend, who was dancing with someone she really didn't want to, but was too nice to say no. I guess she figured I was more her type."

Peter then broke up couple, pretending he was Misia's boyfriend and thanking the unfortunate dance



Celebrating the future with family and friends

partner for "keeping his place warm." Misia admits she was a bit torn between being grateful and "who is this nut?" The rest is history.

The couple now live in Misia's home town of Los Angeles, considering the long journey to Aruba for this special moment shared with family and friends was "well worth it. Though I do admit it was pretty hard sleeping on the plane knowing the ring was in the overhead compartment," adds Peter.

"I was going to propose during this lovely dinner at Simply Fish; the location couldn't be more perfect, but I just couldn't wait," he confessed. He surprised Misia by asking her to look down the beach of Casa Del Mar, where their family has own timesharing for years, so he could take an artful photo. When she turned around to see if he got the shot, Misia found him on one knee with ring in hand.

Their celebratory dinner at Simply Fish, on the beach at

the Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, was a joyous affair. Restaurant Manager Raul saw to it there was plenty of champagne and a special cake. Peter's mother, Effie, offered a tearful, emotional toast to the newly engaged couple, declaring how glad she was to be surrounded by her loved ones "on what is one of the happiest days of life."

Since they met, Peter ad-

mits he has always had one burning question about their relationship.

"I asked if the idea to have me rescue Misia was Neha's, or if it was a collaborative effort; did Misia want to meet me?"

But she isn't telling, she has left me to ponder this for five years. No matter. I have to be sure to thank Neha when we get home."

By Rosalie Klein

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Hyatt Regency Aruba recognizes outstanding employees of 2012



The Hyatt hotel chain has over 85,000 employees around the world. They are known for their professionals who can provide excellent service at all levels all over the world. They are known for offering the best salaries in the hotel industry, as well as some of the best secondary benefits.

As a recognition to em-

ployees for their excellent service during the year they celebrate the annual, "Hyatt Awards Celebration," during which time the management of the hotel rewards employees of the year.

The recent celebration at the Aruba Hyatt Regency took place here under the caption of "Fiesta Mexicana" during which time employees

of the year 2012 were announced. Of a total of 194 employees of the month who were recognized during 2012, Hubert Perez was chosen the Associate of the Year. Of a total of 40 supervisors and managers recognized during 2012, Carily Yarzagaray became Supervisor of the Year, Jeffrey Croes, Supervisor of the Year for the

Casino and Manager of the Year went to Jovino Wolff.

According to General Manager, Fred Hoffmann, it was very difficult to select the best person from the group of dedicated employees.

Some of Hyatt's employees have as many as 35 years of faithful service. The hotel chain also affords employees

the opportunity to grow professionally and personally. Hyatt is convinced that if their employees are contented and feel secure of their jobs, they will automatically reflect this in their contacts with guests.

Staff and management extend their heartfelt congratulations to all the winners and other faithful employees.

Horsemeat found at British Taco Bell restaurants

LONDON (AFP) - Horsemeat has been found in ground beef supplied to Taco Bell's three restaurants in Britain after tests sparked by Europe's sprawling food scandal, the US fast food giant said Friday.

Taco Bell said it was "disappointed" by the discovery and had immediately withdrawn ground beef from the restaurants, two of which are in shopping centres in Essex, east of London, and one of which is in Manchester, northwest England.

"Food quality is our highest priority, and when the news of mislabelled beef products surfaced we voluntarily carried out tests on the ground beef supplied to our three Taco Bell restaurants in the UK," the Tex-Mex chain said.

"Based on that testing, we were very disappointed to learn that some batches of ground beef supplied to us from one supplier in Europe tested positive for horsemeat.

"We immediately withdrew ground beef from sale in our restaurants, discontinued purchase of that meat, and contacted the Food Standards Agency (FSA) with this information."

The FSA also announced on Friday that horsemeat was found in beef products sold by frozen food giant Bird's Eye and catering supplier Brakes, in the third round of food testing since the scandal first emerged in January.

Taco Bell's ground beef, Brakes's spicy minced beef skewers and lasagnes and spaghetti bolognese made by Bird's Eye were all found to contain more than one percent horsemeat.

Millions of ready meals have been pulled from supermarket shelves across Europe after tests revealed that meat labelled as beef actually contained large quantities of horsemeat.

The row has embroiled major international corporations including Swedish furniture chain Ikea and Nestle, the Swiss food giant.

Governments have been scrambling to figure out how and where the mislabelling happened in a sprawling chain of production spanning abattoirs and meat suppliers across the continent.

The European Union's health commissioner said on Thursday that the bloc is planning stiffer sanctions against food fraud in the wake of the scandal.

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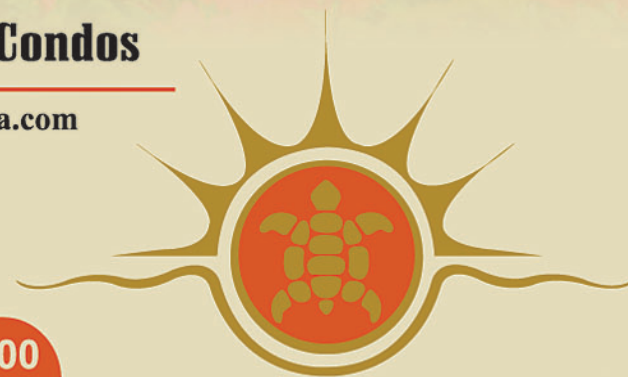
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Ongoing repairs keep Statue of Liberty closed

NEW YORK (AFP) - Damage wreaked on the Statue of Liberty by Hurricane Sandy has yet to be fully repaired, and it remains unclear when the New York icon will again welcome tourists from around the world.

"We do not have a reopening timeline yet," said spokeswoman Linda Friar of the National Park Service, the US government agency that oversees the statue and the small island in New York harbor on which it stands.

"There is still a lot of work

yet to be done," she told AFP.

"Power and communications systems need to be restored (and) docks and walkways around Liberty Island must also be repaired. These are very large infrastructure projects."

Hurricane Sandy dealt New York a powerful blow when it swept up the northeastern US coast on October 29, lifting sea levels by nearly 15 feet (4.2 meters) at the southern tip of Manhattan.

Liberty Island, just 10

acres (four hectares) big, was three-quarters flooded -- in some places by more than five feet (1.5 meters) of water -- and the two docks on which tourists arrive by small ferry boats were swept away.

The statue itself, which stands 93 meters high and weighs more than 200 tons, sustained no damage. Ironically, the viewing platform within its crown had reopened to the public on the eve of the storm, after a year of repairs.

In mid-December, after an

on-site visit, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar estimated the cost of repairs for Liberty Island and nearby Ellis Island at \$59 million.

"We're going to get this done as soon as we possibly can because (the Statue of Liberty) is such an important icon for New York and America," Salazar told reporters.

Gateway to the United States for millions of European immigrants from 1892 to 1924, Ellis Island -- itself a much-visited museum -- also remains closed for the foreseeable future.

Israel to delay settlement starts for Obama trip: report

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has banned settler housing tenders being issued for the West Bank and east Jerusalem when US President Barack Obama visits this month, a daily newspaper said Friday.

Netanyahu had told officials the suspension did not amount to a freeze in settlement construction, and that it would only be in place up until the end of Obama's trip to avoid embarrassing leaders, Maariv newspaper reported.

In March 2010, Israel sparked the ire of the US administration by announcing, during a visit by Vice President Joe Biden, that 1,600 new homes would be built in the east Jerusalem quarter of Ramat Shlomo.

"According to instructions provided by the prime minister's office to the appropriate officials in the ministries of defence and housing, no new tenders for housing will be issued for these areas in the

coming weeks," said Maariv.

"Similarly, projects whose planning has been completed will not be carried out, and all other bureaucratic steps involved in the public tenders will be postponed," it added.

"In telephone conversations which Netanyahu held with officials, it was emphasised that there was no (construction) freeze, but rather a suspension whose purpose is not to embarrass the political establishment during the president's visit."

Netanyahu's office had no immediate comment on the Maariv report.

Later on Friday, privately owned Channel 2 television reported that Netanyahu's coalition negotiator told potential government partners that after forming his new government, Netanyahu would initiate a freeze on all settlement construction outside the major blocs.

Netanyahu is scrambling to form a new coalition before Obama's visit, over a month after the general elec-

tions. On Saturday night, he will be asking President Shimon Peres to afford him an additional two weeks to form a coalition.

Obama is to meet Israeli and Palestinian leaders in Jerusalem and Ramallah during his visit on March 20-22, his first as president.

The White House says Obama has no plans to use the trip to push new proposals to break the more than two-year deadlock in Pales-

Between popes, time-honoured rituals

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - The Catholic Church has time-honoured answers to the centuries-old question of how to run its affairs between popes.

The period known as "Sede Vacante" ("Vacant See") lasts between the death -- or in this highly unusual case the resignation -- of a pope until his successor is elected.



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Dow hits 5-year high despite US budget mess

Continued from pg 1

"Markets are learning to deal with this kind of uncertainty and so they don't get rattled around with every gyration in fiscal policy," said Paul Edelstein, an economist with IHS Global Insight.

"US data has been very good this week and monetary policy has been very supportive."

Fresh data that showed consumer spending rose in January at double the rate of December, despite lower personal income.

Markets were further cheered by a report that showed US manufacturing activity hit the highest level since 2011. Of the 18 manufacturing industries surveyed, 15 reported growth, compared with 13 in January.

Apple shares tumbled 2.5 percent after a US judge invalidated some \$450 million of a \$1 billion award to be paid by Samsung to Apple in a much-watched patent lawsuit. More litigation in the case is expected.

Best Buy picked up 4.0 percent after it topped earnings expectations, even as it reported a decline in same-store sales.

Separately, the company announced that the deadline had passed for founder Dick Schulze to submit his expected offer to buy the com-

pany.

Clothing retailer Gap climbed 2.8 percent after reporting profits and revenues above forecast levels, and boosting its dividend.

Deckers Outdoor, which sells the popular UGG and Teva brands of shoes, soared 15.4 percent after announcing record annual revenues.

Groupon, the online discount coupon distributor, rebounded 11.4 percent after Thursday's 24.3 percent

plunge on forecasts of continuing losses in the current quarter. The company replaced its chief executive with a management team from the board of directors.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury bond declined to 1.85 percent from 1.89 percent late Thursday, while the 30-year retreated to 3.07 percent from 3.09 percent. Bond prices and yields move inversely.

Al-Qaeda's top leader in Mali killed in fighting

PARIS (AFP) - Al-Qaeda's top commander in Mali has been killed, Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno said Friday, in what would be one of the most significant blows to the rebels in the seven-week French-led intervention against Islamist insurgents.

Several newspapers in Abou Zeid's native Algeria had reported his death and Washington had described the reports as "very credible".

Deby said Abou Zeid, the Mali-based operative in Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), was killed in deadly fighting between Chadian troops and Islamist fighters on February 22.

"On February 22, we lost

several soldiers in the Ifogha mountains after destroying the jihadists' base. This was the first time there was a direct confrontation with the jihadists," he said.

"Our soldiers killed two jihadist chiefs including Abou Zeid," said Deby, whose elite forces are among the best desert troops on the continent and have played a key role in the offensive to liberate northern Mali.

Algeria's independent Ennahar TV reported earlier this week that Abou Zeid was killed in northern Mali along with 40 other Islamist militants.

It is the cardinal camerlengo, or chamberlain, who is not only the interim head of state but also the one charged with an array of rituals steeped in traditions, many of them aimed at preventing skull-duggery and thieving.

It is the camerlengo, always a cardinal, who officially certifies the death of a pope -- he once did so by tapping the pontiff's forehead three times with a special silver mallet and calling to him in his native tongue using his birth name.

The camerlengo must then seal the papal apartments to ensure that no one enters them throughout the Sede Vacante.

This task was performed Friday by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, whom Benedict appointed camerlengo in 2007, leaving the seals and bright red ribbons on the doors of the apartment and the lift that serves it in the Apostolic Palace.

The camerlengo is also in charge of making sure the pontiff's "Fisherman's Ring" -- a gold signet ring -- cannot be used to forge papal documents during the Sede Vacante.

In the past the rings have been smashed beyond recognition, but more recently the camerlengo merely etches an "X" across the face of the ring -- an act that must be performed in the presence of

the other cardinals.

The camerlengo takes custody of papal properties at the Vatican, in Rome as well as at Castel Gandolfo -- the palace near the Italian capital where Benedict XVI began his retirement on Thursday.

The symbol of the Vacant See -- a striped umbrella over crossed keys -- is used on official documents, as well as on a postage stamp for use during the interim between popes.

It even featured on Friday on Benedict's old Twitter account @pontifex, which has been suspended until a new pope decides whether to continue using it.

Under a decree by Benedict's predecessor John Paul II, all members of the Roman Curia -- effectively the government of the Catholic Church -- must resign their posts, with two exceptions.

Bertone of course stays on as camerlengo while losing his post as secretary of state, the Vatican's number two job.

The only other official who does not have to resign is the Major Penitentiary, who heads up the Vatican's court for forgiveness of sins, "so that souls may continue to benefit" from absolution.

Benedict's decision to resign leaves Bertone with a far lighter load than he would otherwise have had, as the organiser of all the rituals surrounding a papal death.



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International News

Venezuela VP slams media 'lies' about Chavez

CARACAS - (AFP) - Venezuela's vice president accused "fascist" foreign media Friday of "lying" about the health of President Hugo Chavez as part of a campaign to destabilize the nation.

Nicolas Maduro, the president's political heir, said Chavez was undergoing a "complex and difficult" treatment in a Caracas military hospital, where he checked in last week after two months of cancer treatment in Cuba.

"Stop attacking our comandante, stop the rumors, stop using this situation, which is delicate for everybody, to try to create a destabilization," Maduro said on state-run television.

Maduro singled out the conservative Spanish newspaper ABC and Colombian radio Caracol, calling them "fascist" news organizations that are part of a "campaign against the stability of Venezuela, lying about Chavez."

ABC reported on Friday

that Chavez was transferred to the presidential retreat in the island of La Orchilada days ago to spend his final moments with his family there.

Radio Caracol interviewed Panama's former ambassador to the Organization of American States, Guillermo Cochez, who claims that Chavez has been declared brain dead.

The government says Chavez remains in charge and even held a five-hour meeting in his Caracas military hospital room last week, but Maduro said Thursday that he was still "battling for his health, for his life."

Chavez has not been seen in public since he underwent cancer surgery in Cuba on December 11, a prolonged absence that has fueled rumors about his health.

The government has only released a set of pictures on February 15, showing him smiling in his sickbed and flanked by two daughters, three days before he returned to Caracas in the dead of night.

Syria, Moscow condemn US aid to rebels

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syria and ally Russia denounced a US pledge to provide direct non-lethal aid to rebel fighters, saying it will fuel more violence in the two-year conflict, which claimed dozens more lives on Friday.

Just two weeks away from the second anniversary of the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned that the spiralling conflict in Syria that has killed at least 70,000 people was breaking the country apart.

US Secretary of State John Kerry discussed the crisis with Turkish leaders in Ankara on Friday after Washington said it would provide direct aid to the rebels in the form of food and medical assistance, as well as \$60 million in funding for the political opposition.

Russia's foreign ministry said the decision would backfire and encourage "extremists to take power by force."

But senior opposition figure Burhan Ghalioun told AFP it was the very failure to arm the rebels that "favours the rise of extremists," saying he hoped Washington would realise this

was a "mistaken policy."

The opposition and outgunned rebels have repeatedly urged world powers to arm them, but the West fears that the weapons will fall into the hands of Islamic extremists also battling Assad's regime.

Russia's UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said the US decision was "unfortunate" and that it was time for the opposition to come up with a "well-articulated political programme to be able to enter into talks with the Syrian government."

A Syrian government newspaper said US and European decisions to back Syria's rebels with direct aid would only lead to more bloodshed and encourage "terrorism."

A State Department official travelling with Kerry said Washington wanted outside powers, including Moscow, to push for a transition as agreed in Geneva last June, as the new secretary of state visited key regional ally Turkey.

Kerry had announced the aid package after talks in Rome on Thursday of the Friends of Syria group of Arab and Western nations.

The move marked a significant shift in US policy but falls short of rebel demands for Western backers to supply the rebellion with weapons or non-offensive military equipment.

In a sign of growing diplomatic momentum, Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Barack Obama discussed the conflict by phone, with Putin noting "the need to end military activities as soon as possible."

Russia has drawn the West's anger by vetoing three UN Security Council resolutions censuring President Assad.

In other developments, Syrian troops retook on Friday the Yaarubiyeh crossing on the Iraqi border in oil-rich Hasakeh province, captured a day earlier by jihadist fighters, the Observatory said.



Health & Living

First Lady launches US schools push on obesity

WASHINGTON (AFP) - First Lady Michelle Obama took her campaign against childhood obesity to a new level Thursday with a \$150 million program to encourage more physical activity in American schools.

Let's Move! Active Schools builds upon the Let's Move! initiative that the mother-of-two and wife of Barack Obama unveiled three years ago during the president's first term in the White House.

"Only one in three of our kids is active every day," said the first lady in Chicago, the Obama family's hometown.

"That's not just bad for their bodies. It's also bad for their minds, because being less active can actually hurt kids' academic performance."

Funded by a public-private partnership, Let's Move! Active Schools aims within five years to get 50,000 schools across the United States to provide at least one hour of physical activity per day to their youngsters.

Excessive weight is a major public health issue in the United States, where two in three adults -- and one in three children -- are either overweight or obese, officials say.

Pessimists live longer, study shows

BERLIN (AFP) - Older people who look on the darker side of life tend to live longer than optimists, who in turn face an increased risk of illness and mortality, a new study by a German research institute found Thursday.

Researchers in Germany and Switzerland found that older people who believe their life satisfaction will be above average in future face a 10-percent higher mortality risk or are more likely to develop physical health problems, the DIW think-tank said.

"It is possible that a pessimistic outlook leads elderly people to look after themselves and their health better and take greater precautions against risks," said one of the researchers, Frieder Lang.

The study was conducted by a team from the Friedrich Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuernberg, the Berlin-based DIW as well as

Humboldt University in Berlin and the university of Zurich.

They analysed long-term data compiled between 1993 and 2003 where the same people belonging to three different age groups were asked every year to assess their current level of life satisfaction and how contented they expected to be in five years.

Over the 10-year period the researchers checked with each participant six times whether their expected level of satisfaction tallied with reality five years on.

Results showed 25 percent of older participants realistically estimated their future contentment, while around 43 percent underestimated it and 32 percent overestimated, the DIW said.

Young adults mostly had an unrealistically rosy view of their future while middle-aged people were largely spot on, it said.



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Give needles, condoms to inmates to curb HIV: experts

BUCHAREST (AFP) - Giving inmates drug substitution treatment, needles and condoms are key ways to help curb addiction and HIV infection in European jails, experts say, calling on authorities to change their approach to prison health care.

So far, only 60 prisons around the world conduct needle and syringe exchange programmes, said Heino Stover, a professor at Frankfurt University.

Some countries, such as Poland for religious reasons, even forbid condom distribution in prisons, he added.

Patrick Penninckx, executive secretary of the Council's Pompidou Group, a drug policy agency, said strategies should aim both to "reduce drug supplies and deal with the consequences of addiction."

Statistics show that 15 to 25 percent of Europe's inmates were convicted of drug-related offences and one prisoner in six is a drug user.

Most inmates inject drugs and share needles, which leads to the transmission of blood-borne viruses, especially HIV and hepatitis C, said Stover.

In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the number of people living with HIV surged by 250 percent from 2001 to 2010, with Russia and Ukraine accounting for almost 90 percent of the region's epidemic, UNAIDS figures show.

Prison populations are

among the most vulnerable.

To reduce HIV incidence, experts call on penitentiary authorities to admit that drug smuggling cannot be altogether stopped. Instead they should supply clean needles and condoms.

But progress is slow. In Germany, the programme is in force in barely one prison out of 185. In Romania, the prison of Jilava, south of Bucharest, has recently introduced the system.

In a country where drug possession and use is a crime, information about inmates benefitting from this programme is confidential as only penitentiary doctors are authorised to supply needles, he stressed.

Experts also insist on the need to provide opioid substitution treatment to drug-using inmates. "This will reduce illegal drug use, prevent infectious diseases and eventually save lives," said Hans Wolff, head of the Geneva University Hospitals Unit of Penitentiary Medicine.

In Moldova, seven prisons out of 17 provide methadone to inmates and according to Svetlana Doltu, a prison psychologist, this has made them "more willing to work and more tolerant".

And then there is abstinence. In exchange for their commitment not to use drugs, they can enjoy better detention conditions, with more sports and cultural activities.



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Sci-Tech

Mobile phone health apps touted as lifesavers

BARCELONA (AFP) - Health-related applications for smartphones and tablets are a booming business, but in Africa and Asia "mobile health" could actually be a lifesaver for millions, industry leaders and aid organisations say.

Mobile phones could save up to a million lives over the next five years in sub-Saharan Africa, according to a report by mobile industry association GSMA and global consultants PwC released at the February 25-28 Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.

Africa's population of one billion is among the world's least "connected" yet more than a third already own a mobile phone, often in the most isolated areas, added a study by Wireless Intelligence.

The same is true in other parts of the world.

"In India, a lot of people have no access to Internet, they sometimes can't read, but they have a mobile phone," said Sara Chamberlain, head of information and communications technology for India for BBC Media Action.

"It's often the only device they can access," said Chamberlain, who works on mobile health campaigns.

An SMS text information campaign can significantly improve the impact and efficiency of organisations' disease prevention programmes, she said.

"In maternal, newborn and child health, we are witnessing the game-changing effects that mobile technology has to offer through services such as pregnancy and birth registries, immunisation and nutrition tracking," said Patricia Mechael, executive director of mHealth Alliance.

These services could prove useful in sub-Saharan Africa for instance, where more than 1.2 million newborns die each year and one in nine children do not reach the age of five, according to the report by GSMA and PwC.

But the financing of mobile health in the developing world is still uncertain.

In richer countries, meanwhile, money is pouring into "mobile health".

One of the main aims is to let people with chronic illnesses better manage their conditions day-to-day and reduce time spent in hospital.

According to PwC, by 2017 mobile health services could save \$400 billion (300 billion euros) a year out of a total annual health expenditure of \$6 trillion in the leading industrialised nations of the OECD.

Several smartphones now offer applications that link with diagnostic tools, for example to perform urine analysis or check the blood sugar levels of people with diabetes.

Facebook buys advertising firm from Microsoft



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Facebook agreed Thursday to buy Atlas Advertiser Suite from Microsoft as part of an effort to boost ad revenues at the massive social network. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. Atlas was part of the aQuantive group acquired by Microsoft, which ended up in a writedown and loss for Microsoft last year. Microsoft's Dave O'Hara said the deal "will strengthen our existing partnership" with Facebook "for the benefit of both companies and their respective long-term visions." Facebook has become the world's biggest social network with more than one billion users, but its stock has been hit by concerns about its ability to boost revenues and profitability. The California group has been working on a number of advertising initiatives for both desktop and mobile Facebook applications. Facebook shares rose 1.4 percent to end Thursday at \$27.25.

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US film, music industries roll out anti-piracy program

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A new "copyright alert" system has begun rolling out this week in the United States in an effort to curb online piracy.

The system, informally known as "six strikes," is a voluntary effort of the music and film industries, with the largest Internet service providers participating.

The program will use warnings and could result in slowed or suspended Internet connections, but users will not lose Web access entirely. Still, some civil liberties groups and Internet activists call it too invasive and warn it could unfairly penalize some users.

It is being coordinated by the Center for Copyright Information, created by the music and cinema industries and the five largest broadband Internet firms.

"We hope this cooperative, multi-stakeholder approach will serve as a model for addressing important issues fac-

ing all who participate in the digital entertainment ecosystem," said Jill Lesser, executive director of the center.

She added that people who believe they get warnings in error will have "an easy to use process" to appeal, and get an independent review.

Despite the "six strikes" moniker, backers of the system say it is not intended to cut off Internet access for copyright infringers, who will get up to six warnings.

The steps announced by the big Internet firms include pop-ups, which force users to acknowledge warnings, and mechanisms to slow a user's access to near-dialup speeds.

Some critics say that redirecting users is equivalent to a "browser hijack" while others say innocent users may be snared by the system.

McSherry said another problem is a "lack of transparency" in the system, which

is private and cannot be challenged in the same way as a law.

Internet subscribers "face consequences based on nothing more than an accusation," McSherry said.

Other activists were even more blunt in their criticism.

"Soon your ISP will be spying on you and messing with your internet at Hollywood's request," said a tweet from the online activist group Fight for the Future.

But the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a Washington think tank, called the program "a model for addressing digital property rights without unduly inhibiting Internet use and innovation."

Participating in the program are the five largest broadband Internet providers -- Comcast, Time Warner Cable, AT&T, Cablevision and Verizon -- covering some 85 percent of US residential customers.

COMICS

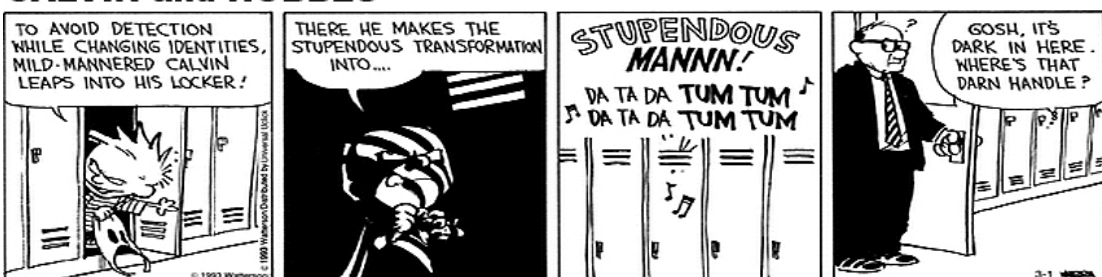
PICKLES



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ACROSS

1. Weekday (abbr.)
4. Shakespeare, e.g.
8. Common word
11. Young boy
12. Like a séance
13. "___ and Stimp" (cartoon)
14. Self-concept
15. Box material
17. Like Richard Burton
19. Excursion or Escalade

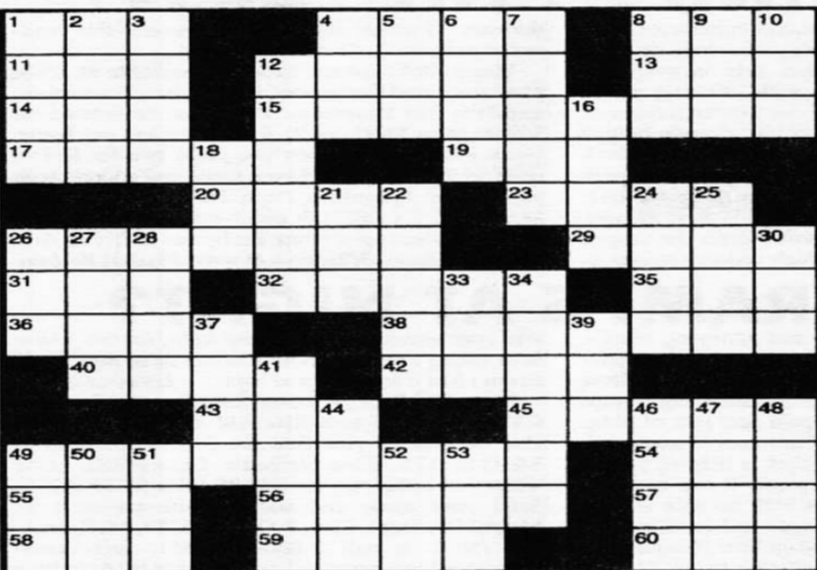
20. Turn's partner
23. Suffocates
26. Do a lab job
29. Impend
31. "Are you a man ___ mouse?" (2 wds.)
32. Actress Rigg
35. Type of jazz
36. Highland toppers
38. Liquefying
40. ___ Patrick Harris
42. At a snail's ___
43. Actress Taylor
45. Dwight's opposition
49. It may twist off (2 wds.)
54. Cobbler's tool
55. Juan's "one"

56. Atlantic City tycoon
57. Certain TV knob (abbr.)
58. NYC transit org.
59. Highball mixer
60. High trains

DOWN

1. Emulated Superman
2. Craze
3. False god
4. "___ Clown" (2 wds.)
5. Timetable abbr.
6. Disburdens
7. Remove glitches
8. Melodic syllable

9. That woman
10. Break off
12. Repeated
16. Racetrack shape
18. Easy and Main (abbr.)
21. Chem., e.g.
22. Philatelist's delight
24. Desert in Mongolia
25. Anon
26. Speckle
27. Iraq's neighbor
28. Alike
30. Auto buyer's concern (abbr.)
33. Teachers' gp.
34. He created "Li'l Abner" (2 wds.)
37. River mud
39. Media mogul Turner
41. Light tunes
44. Nothing
46. Bathe
47. Evading army duty (abbr.)
48. Maladies
49. Hobo
50. Canadian province (abbr.)
51. Off ___ good start (2 wds.)
52. Cow's mouthful
53. "I ___ Rock" (2 wds.)



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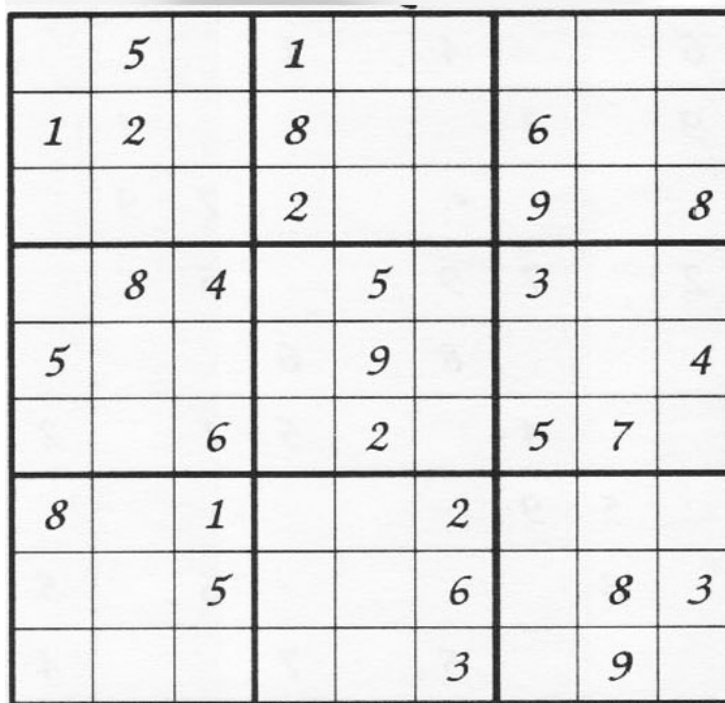
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2	6	1	8	5	3	7	9	4
8	4	9	1	2	5	6	7	3
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6	7	5	8	2	9	1	4	3
4	9	8	1	6	7	2	5	3
1	2	7	5	9	4	8	6	3
8	1	6	5	9	2	7	4	3
5	8	9	4	1	8	6	2	1
7	4	2	6	3	1	8	5	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

\$85 billion austerity hit lines up US economy

WASHINGTON (AFP) - An \$85 billion dollar austerity time bomb was to detonate against the US economy Friday, as President Barack Obama blamed a Republican refusal to compromise for a failure to avert "dumb" spending cuts.

The slashing reductions in domestic and defense spending, brought on by deep ideological differences between Obama and top Republicans, threaten to further slow tepid economic growth and could cost hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Obama blamed the impasse on Republicans, who had refused to close tax loopholes used by the rich and corporations to add to more targeted spending cuts, in what he calls a "balanced" approach to deficit reduction.

"I am not a dictator. I'm the president," Obama said, warning he could not force his Republican foes to "do the right thing", or make the Secret Service barricade Republicans leaders in a room until a deal is done.

Obama was bound by law to initiate the automatic, indiscriminate cuts, which could wound the already fragile economy, cost a million jobs and harm military readiness, by 11.59 pm.

The hit to military and domestic spending, known as the sequester, was never supposed to happen, but was rather a device seen as so punishing that rival lawmakers would be forced to find a better compromise to cut the deficit.

Both sides agree that the sequester is a blunt instrument to cut spending, as it does not distinguish between essential and wasteful programs -- in what Obama has branded a "meat-cleaver" approach.

The president appeared irritated but combative as he

spoke to reporters after a deadline day meeting with his chief foes, House Speaker John Boehner and Senate Republican minority leader Mitch McConnell and allies, Democratic Senate leader Harry Reid and House Democrat Nancy Pelosi in the Oval Office.

Boehner emerged from the talks to signal to reporters that Republicans would not budge on Obama's key demand for a deal which would raise tax revenues.

Even Obama's defeated election foe Mitt Romney got in on the action, slamming the president in a rare interview.

"What we've seen is the president out campaigning to the American people, doing rallies around the country, flying around the country, and berating Republicans. And blaming and pointing," Romney said in comments to be aired on Fox News Sunday.

Air China to buy 31 Boeing planes

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Air China signed an agreement Friday to buy a total 31 Boeing passenger and cargo planes from US aerospace giant Boeing, the Chinese flag carrier said.

Air China said it would purchase 20 Boeing 737-800 aircraft, two Boeing 747-8 aircraft, one Boeing 777-300ER aircraft and eight Boeing 777 cargo planes.

The total value of the deal is \$5.2 billion at current Boeing list prices.

"The Boeing Company has granted to the Company significant price concessions with regard to the Boeing Aircraft," Air China said in a statement.

The deal is subject to Chinese government approval.

Boeing spokesman Jim Proulx said Boeing would announce the order upon government approval.

"We look forward to working with Air China, a long-time valued customer, to obtain approval," he said in an email to AFP.

Dutch to cut 4.3bn euros in 2014 budget to hit EU deficit ceiling

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Netherlands' Liberal-Labour coalition government said Friday they had agreed to slash over four billion euros from the 2014 budget in the hope of driving down the deficit to Europe's three percent ceiling.

"We have agreed on a package of savings of 4.3 billion euros (\$5.6 billion)," Liberal Prime Minister Mark Rutte told journalists after a cabinet meeting.

The announcement came the day after the Dutch Central Statistical Bureau (CBS) said the public deficit would be 3.3 percent this year and 3.4 percent in 2014, above the EU limit at a time when the Netherlands is seeking to set a good example to other eurozone members.

The deficit hit a high of 4 percent in 2012.

Rutte said Thursday's deficit predictions from the CBS were "a setback", but insisted no more cuts would be made from the 2013 budget.

"We will not make any more cuts in 2013 because the savings can only be made through taxes," Rutte said.

"We will take these measures in 2014, to strengthen public finance and respect the three percent" limit, he said.

The savings will be made largely through ending some tax breaks, cuts from ministerial budgets and some wage freezes.

The CBS also predicted Thursday that the Dutch economy would return to growth in 2014, increasing by 1.0 percent, after a contraction of 0.5 percent in 2013.

Judge cuts \$450 mn from \$1 bn Samsung-Apple penalty

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - A judge invalidated some \$450 million of a \$1 billion award to be paid by Samsung in a landmark patent lawsuit from Apple, saying the calculation came from an "impermissible legal theory."

US District Judge Lucy Koh affirmed the remainder of the award, amounting to \$598.9 million, in the patent infringement case, while denying Apple's request for an increase in damages.

The decision marked the latest twist in the blockbuster trial pitting the maker of the iPhone against the surging South Korean electronics giant.

Apple had accused its rival of massive and willful copying of its designs and technology for smartphones and tablets.

But Koh said the jury erred in calculating damages for some of the devices in question, including some models of the Galaxy SII smartphone and Galaxy Tab tablet, and struck down as invalid the \$450 million awarded to the Silicon Valley giant.

She ruled that a new trial would be needed to award damages for these items, saying that due to the "impermissible legal theory on which

the jury based its award," she "cannot reasonably calculate the amount of excess while effectuating the intent of the jury."

But she encouraged both parties to have the case reviewed by an appellate court before any new trial.

The judge allowed the award to stand for 14 products, including some Galaxy smartphones and the Galaxy Tab 10.1 tablet, leaving an award of \$598.9 million.

The jury relied on Apple's calculation for lost profits dating back to 2010, when it first told Samsung of its objections, but Koh said that in most cases, the damages could only cover the period after the lawsuit was filed in April 2011.

"There are eight phones for which the jury awarded 40 percent of Samsung's profits for the entire period, but for which, during some of the damages period, infringer's profits was not an authorized remedy," the ruling read.

"As the court can neither calculate an appropriate remittitur nor leave the award intact, the only remaining possibility is to conduct a new trial on damages for these 8 products."

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US court tells Argentina to spell out bond offer

NEW YORK (AFP) - A US appeals court in New York has told Argentina to spell out its offer to settle a suit by holders of defaulted bonds that Buenos Aires brands "vultures," court documents showed Friday.

The court said Argentina's lawyer suggested in a hearing Wednesday that the government was willing to repay the debt via an unstated formula different from what the bondholders -- US hedge funds -- were demanding.

The court ordered Argentina to "submit in writing to the court the precise terms of any alternative payment formula and schedule to which it is prepared to commit" by March 29.

The court said Buenos Aires needs to detail how and when it would repay the bonds, and what assurances it would give that it would follow through with repayment.

Argentina defaulted on some \$100 billion in debt in 2001, and has since restructured its debt twice, covering around 75 percent of the nominal value of the bonds.

But hedge funds NML Capital and Aurelius Capital Management, which bought up some of the original defaulted debt at steep discounts, refused to go along with the restructurings and are suing to recover 100 percent of the bonds' value, a total of \$1.3 billion.

In Buenos Aires on Friday, President Cristina Kirchner said Argentina would agree to pay the hedge funds at the same discounted value and on the same schedule as the other creditors.

**YESTERDAY'S
Crossword Answer**

A	T	E		A	N	D	I		B	M	W	S
T	A	E		B	A	U	M		R	I	O	T
L	O	L	L	I	P	O	P		A	X	E	S
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S	H	A	N	E			L	A	U	N	C	H
L	O	B	E	S		E	N	G		R	A	F
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H	E	L	M		S	E	E	D		P	R	Y

Odilo Scherer: *Brazil's top papal contender*



SAO PAULO (AFP) - As the Vatican prepares to elect a new pope, eyes have focused on Sao Paulo archbishop Odilo Scherer, a moderate conservative tipped as Latin America's top contender.

This month, the world's 117 "cardinal electors" are to meet in secret in the Sistine Chapel in Rome to elect a successor to Benedict XVI, who steps down February 28 due to old age.

Since his 2007 papal appointment, Scherer, 63, has led the largest archdiocese -- six million Catholics -- in the world's largest Catholic country.

Vatican watchers put him ahead of another top Latin American candidate, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, an Argentine

of Italian extraction who works in the Vatican as prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches.

"I would say that Scherer is the best bet," said American John Allen Jr, a respected Vatican expert and author of several books on the Catholic church.

"He has a good reputation and is admired here (in the Vatican)," the daily O Globo quoted Allen as saying recently.

One man who knows Scherer well is Father Jose Antonio Trasferetti, professor of moral theology at the Catholic Pontifical University in Campinas, in southern Sao Paulo state.

"He has all the qualities to be a great pope," Trasferetti said.

"He has an open mind, he is a good communicator and a good administrator. He is the right person to open a dialogue between the various factions within the church," Trasferetti said.

Trasferetti, who said he studied theology in Rome with Scherer from 1989 to 1991, described him as "a moderate conservative" on matters of doctrine and social issues.

Scherer, he added, is well acquainted with social problems in Sao Paulo, a cosmopolitan city of 11 million people where the archbishop oversees parishes facing high poverty rates, crime, youth unemployment and lack of basic services.

On his archdiocesan website and in newspapers, Scherer regularly offers Catholic-based commentary on key issues. He is also very active on Twitter, boasting 20,000 followers of his account @DomOdiloScherer.

The German-Brazilian prelate accompanied the pope for a major part of the latter's visit to Brazil in May 2007.

He once criticized so-called liberation theology -- a leftist

movement within Catholicism -- for using "Marxism as a tool of analysis," but he backed its focus on tackling social injustice and poverty.

Scherer is very much a traditionalist, concerned about the growing strength of Evangelical churches at the expense of Catholics.

Evangelicals have seen their numbers jump in Brazil from 26.2 million (15 percent) in 2000 to 42.3 million (22 percent) in 2010, while the proportion of Catholics is down to 63 percent of the total population of 194 million from 73.6 percent in 2000.

Initially, the archbishop slammed attempts by pop star priest Marcelo Rossi to use some of the charismatic features of Evangelical churches to win back or retain the Catholic faithful.

"Priests aren't showmen," Scherer said in 2007. "The Mass is not to be transformed into a show."

Yet he later showed that he can be a pragmatist. When Rossi inaugurated a new mega-church capable of holding about 100,000 people in Sao Paulo last November, Scherer showed up as a sign of support.

Earlier this month, the car-

dinal stressed that the Catholic church had faced challenges throughout its 2,000-year-old history but now needed to tackle the challenge of "post-modernity."

He also said nationality and age should not be key factors in choosing the next pope.

Much more important will be the candidate's capacity to lead the world's 1.1 billion Catholics "at a time of great challenges," said Scherer, who plans to be in Rome to bid farewell to Benedict XVI.

He was born on September 21, 1949 into an ethnic German family in Cerro Largo, a small town of 13,000 people located in southern Rio Grande do Sul state.

The town was founded in 1902 by German immigrants and known as Colonia Serro Azul.

Ordained to the priesthood in 1976, Scherer obtained a doctorate in sacred theology in Rome in 1991.

He served as an official of the Congregation for Bishops in the Roman Curia (Papal Court) from 1994 to 2001 and was secretary general of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops from 2003 to 2007.

Fine food and delightful ambiance mark an evening at Chef's Table



-- This year, some regular visitors to Aruba we know informed us they discovered a delightful eatery, which they returned to a number of times during their stay. The current incarnation of this cozy restaurant on the Bubali Road is Chef's Table, and owner Martijn is a charming host with a deft hand in the kitchen.

The menu is International; fine cuisine with a dash of fusion flavor, and sometimes, a distinctly Dutch

gourmet touch. A variety of fresh Caribbean fish dishes are featured, plus specials of what is seasonal and tasty.

We definitely recommend the Creamy Fish Soup, and the Beef Carpaccio appetizer proved even too much for one of our party to finish as a main course. This tasty, and remarkable generous portion could serve as an appetizer for three people.

Our group of diners sampled a diverse smattering of the menu, and had only kudos

for the special of the day, a thick pork chop, marinated and grilled on an open fire, as well as the Beef Teriyaki and Marinated Duck Breast, which are regular menu items. If you are starving when you arrive, you most definitely will not leave hungry, even if just sharing an appetizer.

What largely enhances the Chef's Table experience is the delightful surroundings. Here is a true escape from the busier beach areas. The restaurant is in a quiet neighborhood but easy to find, just a mile or two inland from the intersection of Super Food Market. Aside from the original art that decorates the various rooms of this landmark country house, it sports a charming courtyard, hacienda style, for outdoor dining. We found there was just enough breeze, without being overblown. It is the kind of place you will enjoy



lingering with friends over a glass of wine or an after dinner specialty coffee or cognac. No one will rush you out the door and the wait staff is extremely friendly and accommodating. They have a truly delightful way of serving dessert in fluted shot glasses, providing just enough of a sweet finish to top off the meal.

Chef's Table is open six nights a week for dinner only; they are closed on Wednesday. Dining hours are 5:30 to 10:30 PM and reservations can be made through their website, where you can look over the menu: www.chefstable-saruba.com or call

587-8140

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Keshi Yena with plantains, vegetables and pica



Grandma's stoba with classic rice and beans hand homemade potato beet salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine: **The Queen's.** They may have moved

from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses of Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on

the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. **They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining.** Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

Mexico says 26,000 went missing from 2006-2012

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexico said this week that more than 26,000 people went missing during former president Felipe Calderon's 2006-2012 tenure, which was dominated by the country's spiraling drug war.

The latest statistics were announced a week after Human Rights Watch said Mexican security forces were not properly investigated in at least 249 "disappearances" that occurred during the same period.

Lia Limon, head of the interior ministry's human rights unit, told a press conference the ministry had 26,121 records of people who went

missing from December 2006 to November 2012, without specifying the cause of the incidents.

Limon said authorities would examine the records to determine which cases are linked to illegal acts in a joint effort with tax collectors, who want to ascertain whether anyone declared missing has "returned home."

She added that individuals may have gone missing because of immigration or natural disasters.

Calderon deployed the military to battle the country's increasingly powerful and brutal

drug cartels in 2006, leading to an escalation in violence that has claimed the lives of more than 70,000 people since then.

Human Rights Watch said the 249 people who went missing are presumed dead.

The rights monitor said in its 193-page report last week that security forces had been involved in disappearances since 2007 and called on the country's new government to account for the missing.

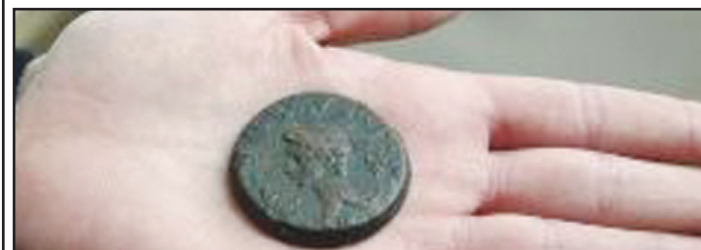
It said that in more than 140 of the cases, "evidence suggests that these were enforced disappearances" with state agents directly or indirectly participating in the disappearances, sometimes on behalf of organized crime.

The report warned that after 2007 there may have been thousands of other enforced disappearances, citing government documents leaked to local media which estimate the number at up to 25,000.

President Enrique Pena Nieto of the Institutional Revolutionary Party took power in Mexico on December 1.

The new leader has said he wants to change the military's role in fighting organized crime, but has yet to outline his overall strategy.

Spain police seize 'unique' stolen Roman coin



MADRID (AFP) - Spanish police have seized a "unique" ancient Roman coin that was stolen in a 600,000 euro (\$786,000) haul in Madrid last year, they said. The brown bronze disc bearing the portrait of Augustus -- the Roman emperor who conquered parts of Spain -- was the most important of the 867 such coins seized. "The collection is very important as much for its economic value as its historic, artistic and cultural importance," said Antonio Tenorio, chief inspector of the expert cultural heritage brigade that recovered the coins. Police arrested a gold dealer in Madrid in connection with the case. Along with jewellery, the coins were stolen by burglars who broke into the home of a private collector in Madrid last April. Tenorio said the Augustus coin was minted to commemorate victories against the northern Iberian Cantabrian and Asturian tribes. "It is quite heavy and is one of the biggest ones ever seized. It seems to be a unique piece," Tenorio said. "There is not another one like it known in the world." A police statement said the collector acquired the coin in 2002 at an auction house in New York for 30,000 euros. The coins were seized in separate raids at the gold dealer's shop in Madrid and an auction house in Barcelona, it said. It described the coins as imperial "Ibero-Roman" ones minted in the first centuries BC and AD. Police said they issued an international alert of the theft and the coins were identified after the suspect took some of them to the auction house to be sold.



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Sport**European Indoor Championships**

GOTHENBURG (AFP) - Controversial British sprinter Dwain Chambers crashed out of the European Indoor Championships on Friday when he failed to negotiate the 60m heats.

The 34-year-old ran 6.78sec to finish fifth in his heat, with only the top four progressing.

An angry Chambers exited the stadium without speaking to the media.

The Londoner, who served a two-year drugs ban after being caught using the designer steroid THG in 2003, fought a lengthy battle to run in the Olympics on home ground last year.

But he failed to qualify from the semi-finals.

There were four golds decided on the opening day of the championships on Friday with France's Antoinette Nana Djimou taking the pentathlon title for the second time.

Elsewhere, Russia's Sergei Shubenkov (7.49sec) edged out Italy's Paolo Dal Molin for gold in the men's 60m hurdles.

Turkey's Nevin Yanit won the women's 60m hurdles in 7.89sec, the best indoors in Europe this season with the double European 110m hurdles champion beating Alina Talay of Belarus and Veronica Borsi of Italy.

The men's shot went to Serbia's Asmir Kolasinac with a throw of 20.62m.

Kolasinac, the bronze medallist outdoors in Helsinki, saw off Bosnia's Hamza Alic and Ladislav Prasil of the Czech Republic.



Russia's Sergei Shubenkov (C)



Nevin Yanit (R)



Serbia's Asmir Kolasinac competes to win the final of the men's Shot Put

Football: Juventus escape Napoli siege with point

Juventus' Giorgio Chiellini (R) heads to score against Napoli

ROME (AFP) - Juventus survived a second-half Napoli onslaught to draw 1-1 with their closest title rivals Friday, maintaining a six-point lead after a testing examination at a ground where they haven't won in 13 years.

Juventus, whose last league win at the Sao Paolo came way back in September 2000 when current coach Antonio Conte was playing in midfield, took the lead in the game but were indebted to veteran goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon for salvaging a point.

Napoli dangerman Marek Hamsik had fired a fierce drive over Buffon's crossbar before the visitors snatched the lead after just nine minutes.

Giorgio Chiellini rose above Miguel Angel Britos to power home a header past goalkeeper Morgan De Sanctis from a fine, pinpoint cross by Andrea Pirlo.

It was a first goal of the season in Serie A for Chiellini in his 15th match.

But he almost failed to make the game, having to undergo a late fitness test on an ankle problem.

Both sides continued to have half-chances before Napoli levelled two minutes before half-time.

Swiss midfielder Gokhan Inler unleashed a 25-yard right-foot pile-driver which took a deflection off the head of Leonardo Bonucci and flew past the despairing dive of Buffon into the top corner.

In a bad-tempered end to the first half, Edinson Cavani was booked for elbowing Chiellini in the face, just moments after the Juventus player had cheekily tugged the flowing, dark hair of the Uruguayan.

The dangerous Hamsik brought a diving save out of Buffon just before the hour mark after being given too much space on the edge of the penalty area.

Buffon then pulled off a series of fine saves as Napoli began to pick their way through the Juventus defence.

On the 73-minute mark, he was almost beaten, however, when he parried a stinging Hamsik drive into the path of substitute Blerim Dzemaili who was unable to adjust his balance as the ball came towards him at speed and his shot was scuffed wide of the post.

Buffon then had to be alert to tip an Inler drive over the bar while Cavani thumped a late free-kick over the top in the dying moments.

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Tennis: Ferrer, Nadal reach Acapulco semi-finals

ACAPULCO (AFP) - Rafael Nadal's injury comeback gathered pace Thursday as the 11-time Grand Slam champion reached the semi-finals of the Mexican Open and inched closer to a possible title showdown with fellow Spaniard David Ferrer.

Nadal, playing his third tournament in four weeks after a seven-month injury layoff, beat Argentina's Leonardo Mayer 6-1, 7-5 in the quarters and will now play Nicolas Almagro.

Ferrer, the top seed and three-time defending champion whose world number four ranking puts him one spot higher than Nadal, breezed



past Italy's Paolo Lorenzi 6-3, 6-1 to book a semi-final clash with Fabio Fognini.

The tournament is one of three Latin American clay court events Nadal tabbed for his comeback from a left knee injury.

Nadal's next opponent Almagro, a two-time winner in Acapulco, beat Horacio Zeballos of Argentina 6-3, 6-4, firing down 10 aces in the 70-minute encounter.

Almagro's win denied

Nadal the chance for revenge against Zeballos, who beat the Spanish number two seed in the Vina del Mar final.

In the women's quarter-finals of this combined ATP and WTA tournament, top seed and defending champion Sara Errani defeated Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-4.

Second-seeded Spaniard Carla Suarez Navarro also advanced, downing sixth-seeded Italian Francesca Schiavone 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-2.



PALM BEACH GARDENS (AFP) - World No. 1 and defending champion Rory McIlroy withdrew from the US PGA Honda Classic during his second round on Friday, saying he was struggling due to pain from a sore wisdom tooth. McIlroy struggled through the back nine on Friday, his opening nine holes of the round, and hit his approach at the 18th into water. He then walked off the course and quickly departed the grounds with his coach and caddie. It was the first time in his career that McIlroy has withdrawn from a tournament and it comes as the 23-year-old from Northern Ireland struggles to find his form after switching to Nike equipment for this season.

Cycling: Armstrong faces two new lawsuits

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Lance Armstrong was facing two more lawsuits on Friday spawned by his admission that all seven of his Tour de France victories were fueled by banned drugs.

The Nebraska-based Acceptance Insurance Company sued Armstrong and Tailwind Sports Corporation claiming he committed fraud by concealing his use of performance enhancing drugs during the 1999, 2000 and 2001 Tours.

"By his cheating and deception, Armstrong committed fraud. This suit seeks repayment of \$3 million in undeserved an unearned pay Lance Armstrong obtained by fraud," stated the lawsuit filed in Travis County Court in Austin, Texas.

The payment cited was a \$3 million bonus paid to Armstrong for his first three Tour victories.

Acceptance claims that Armstrong's lies void the policy under which the money was paid out.

In October, Armstrong was banned for life after the US Anti-Doping Agency determined he was the key figure in a sophisticated doping program on his US Postal Service team.

He finally made a belated admission of doping in a televised interview with Oprah

Winfrey in January.

Armstrong was also sued Thursday in federal court in Los Angeles in a class-action lawsuit claiming Armstrong and FRS -- maker of nutritional supplements -- engaged in false advertising.

The US government has joined a "whistle-blower" lawsuit seeking help the US Postal Service recoup "tens of millions" paid to Armstrong when it sponsored his team with more than \$30 million -- a lawsuit that could deliver a triple-damages blow costing Armstrong more than \$90 million.

That lawsuit was first filed by Armstrong's disgraced former teammate Floyd Landis, who claims Armstrong and team manager Johan Bruyneel defrauded taxpayers and the government by having Armstrong and other riders use performance-enhancing drugs.

Armstrong is also being sued by Texas insurance company SCA, which paid him \$12.1 million in bonuses for multiple Tour victories.

In Britain, he is being sued by the Sunday Times, which is seeking repayment of the £1 million (\$1.6 million, 1.2 million euros) libel settlement Armstrong won against the newspaper in 2006 after it printed allegations that he doped.

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NBA: Noah's triple-double lifts Bulls over 76ers



CHICAGO (AFP) - Joakim Noah notched the third triple-double of his NBA career Thursday, scoring 23 points with 21 rebounds and 11 blocked shots to lead Chicago to a 93-82 win over stumbling

Philadelphia.

Carlos Boozer added 21 points and 12 rebounds for Chicago, with Luol Deng contributing 12 points, eight rebounds and four assists.

The victory was a boost for

a Bulls team that had dropped their prior three games at home.

Britain's Deng took an elbow to the face from 76ers forward Spencer Hawes in the waning seconds. He remained on court for several minutes before proceeding to the locker room.

Noah's 11 blocked shots were a career high and matched a Bulls record for blocks in a regulation game.

He became the fourth player in the last 25 years to post a triple-double featuring at least 20 points, 20 rebounds and 10 blocks, joining former Rockets great Hakeem Olajuwon, Shaquille O'Neal and Shawn Bradley.

The Bulls beat the 76ers for the third straight time, posting their first season sweep since Chicago won all four meetings with Philadelphia in the 1996-97 season.

The defeat stretched the Sixers' losing streak to seven games, and saw their playoff hopes dwindle further.

Philadelphia went into the game 5 1/2 games behind Milwaukee for the eighth and final spot in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

True Holiday scored 22 points for Philadelphia and Hawes added 20 points and 15 rebounds.

Federer beaten by Berdych again, final against Djokovic

DUBAI (AFP) - Roger Federer's defence of the Dubai Open title came to a dramatic end in the semi-finals after he failed to convert three match points against Tomas Berdych, the man who also upset him in the US Open.

The world number six from the Czech Republic thrillingly turned the match around after a neck-and-neck second set tie-break, going on to win 3-6, 7-6 (10-8), 6-4 against the five-time champion and set up a final against Novak Djokovic.

The Serbian world number one extended his unbeaten run to 17 matches and reached the 55th final of his career with a 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) win over Juan Martin Del Potro, the former US Open champion from Argentina.

Federer was on the verge of success at 6-4 and 8-7 in the tie break, with the second of the three points coming on his serve, only for Berdych to somehow get into a rally and win it with some fierce ground strokes.

Of his best chance, the second match point, Federer said:

"That's just disappointing right there, because the match was in my racket.

Berdych was pleased that he avoided the perils of tension in the later stages, as he closed the match out.

Earlier, Djokovic was again in fine fettle for a man who had not played a tournament since the successful defence of the Australian title nearly five weeks ago, and, after three solid wins already, he raised his level once more.

Djokovic was made to.

Del Potro hit fierce first serves and heavy ground strokes mixed in with thunderbolt accelerations with his forehand, advancing to a 3-0 lead in the second set.

Djokovic responded superbly when behind, containing brilliantly, moving superbly, and counter-attacking with excellent timing and accuracy.

However, his break back to 2-3 came amidst controversy. Umpire Magdi Somat imposed a time violation on Del Potro when he took a longer to prepare at a vital moment, at 30-40, break point down.



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